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Independence and Peace for the Vietnamese People! YANKEE GO HOME!

VIETNAM COURIER

May 15,

1967

No 110

4th Year

NORTH VIETNAM

Up to May 12

1,883

U. S. AIRCRAFT DOWNED

INFORMATION WEEKLY — E.O. : 46 Tran Hung Dao Street — Hanoi — D. R. V. — Tel. 3841

The L.A.F. fighters
aim at the enemy



SOUTH VIETNAM

U.S. AND PUPPET TROOPS HEAVY DE- FEATS IN QUANG TRI

■ At Khe Sanh, the L. A. F.
Wiped Out 1,800 Enemies,
Including 1,500 GIs Be-
tween April 24 and May 5.

■ At Con Tien, Doc Mieu and
Dong Ha, They Put Out
of Action 1,000 Enemies
Including 600 GIs on the
Night of May 7.

SOUTH VIETNAM ARMY AND PEOPLE'S BIG SUCCESSES, U.S. AND QUISLINGS' HEAVY SETBACKS *

by Lieutenant General
VAN TIEN DUNG

III. BY THWARTING THE U.S. "RURAL
PACIFICATION" PLAN TO WIN OVER THE
PEOPLE AND ANNEX LAND, THE SOUTH
VIETNAM ARMY AND PEOPLE HAVE SUC-
CEEDED IN DEFENDING, CONSOLIDATING
AND CONTINUALLY EXPANDING
THE LIBERATED ZONE

I n their local war or ag-
gression in South Viet-
nam the U.S. imperialists
have not only failed
miserably in their "search
and destroy" plan but even
more so in their "rural pa-
cification" program. AP cor-
respondent Peter Arnett
admitted on January 8, 1967
that the history of pacification
in South Vietnam has been
a record of ambitious plans
going bankrupt and of the

immense energy of tal-
ented advisers vanishing
into thin air.

"Rural pacification" is a
strategic objective of the
U.S. in South Vietnam aimed
at attacking in a compre-
hensive way the South Viet-
namese people's revolution-
ary forces, rooting out their
guerrilla war in order to win
over the people and annex
land. Johnson called it the

"second front", a counter-
guerrilla war and a key point
in the "strategy of balance"
devised by himself in an
attempt to win the war of
aggression in South Vietnam.
Along with big "search and
destroy" operations, the U.S.
launched hundreds of nibbling
raids in all parts of South
Vietnam, attacking most
furiously the liberated areas
of the South Vietnamese
people, applying in the
course of these raids their
most savage "kill all, burn
all, destroy all" policy. In
addition to a huge force of
puppet U.S. and mercenaries
troops, they have also thrown

(Continued page 7)

BEFORE an audience of some 700 eminent American physicians, U.S. President Johnson, in the bottom of his heart: "Why shouldn't we seek to understand our fellow human beings? Why shouldn't we negotiate? Why shouldn't people die? I have been asking myself these questions each morning and each evening I again ponder over them."

Then he asserted: "I want to negotiate, I want a political settlement. More than anybody else I want killings to stop in this world."

It was the 20th of April last, the second day of bombing that Johnson, himself had ordered against the central part and the outskirts of Hanoi.

In the course of the reception, a guest stood up and waved a sign reading: "Vietnam". Far from being a mere chance occurrence, this "little incident" reflects the great ground swell which has begun to shake the system of lies of the White House and the Pentagon.

In late 1966 and early 1967, the United States mustered in South Vietnam the biggest forces ever seen in the two years of the local war: a 40,000-strong U.S. expeditionary corps, not including the 50,000 men of the 7th Fleet, and almost the same number of men serving in Thailand and Guam; more than 50,000 troops of satellite countries; some half a million men of the puppet forces. At the lowest estimate, a million troops. To this should be added 4,500 planes and helicopters of various types,

Mr. Johnson's Assertion

3,250 tanks and armoured cars, 2,500 heavy and super-heavy artillery pieces. With such a war machine, General Westmoreland had hoped to win a decisive military victory and turn the tide of the war. To attain this end, he threw everything into the scale so as, on the one hand, to ensure success for big "search and destroy" operations, and on the other, carry through "the other war": "pacification".

The Pentagon confidently expected good results, and asserted that the "Vietcong" had lost all hopes of winning the war. Also, once again the White House and the Pentagon were grossly mistaken. American troops, assisted by satellite troops and puppet forces, have been beaten hollow in all their operations, including the notorious Operation Junction City, which involved 45,000 men in an area of less than 300 square kilometres. The "other war", timidly begun in the Mekong river delta, has pitifully failed. For their part, the Liberation forces of South Vietnam have firmly held the initiative, have repeatedly launched smashing attacks on the Central Highlands, along the coast and near the demilitarized

zone. According to a communiqué of the South Vietnamese National Front for Liberation, during the first quarter of 1967 alone, 80,000 enemy troops were put out of action, among them 45,000 American and satellite troops; 100 planes and helicopters shot down or destroyed on the ground, over 2,000 tanks, armoured cars, and other vehicles destroyed; 150 pieces of heavy artillery destroyed; and 30 war vessels sunk.

In North Vietnam, American war escalation has suffered new failures and losses with every passing day. As to the Vietnamese people, they carry on, unwaveringly and victoriously, their double task: to produce and to fight.

In an editorial of May 2, the *Wall Street Journal* wrote, correctly and bitterly: "In Vietnam, the United States is lost in a terrible labyrinth with no way out... It is time to recognise that Vietnam has become a disease beyond cure."

As everyone could expect, the Johnson administration has not admitted defeat. Mulish and short-sighted, it has rushed headlong into new war ventures, and Johnson decided, as a sensational turn in events, the convening of a war council

in Guam, ANZUS and SEATO member France and Pakistan in their turn held conferences. In "Seven Little Hosts" countries with troops participating in the American war in South Vietnam, also met. The same thread runs through all this seeming diversity: the intensification of the war. The U.S. imperialists have not even tried to cover this up.

In South Vietnam, American reinforcements have been seen: Thai troops are being sent; new military operations have been started; all-out bombings have been carried out by B-52s, including those newly transferred to Utopia (Thailand); farcical elections have been held to give the puppet regime a facade of democracy.

In North Vietnam, many waterways have been mined; the coastal region subjected to systematic naval bombardment; villages in the demilitarized zone shelled by long-range artillery positioned south of the 17th parallel; industrial cities like Quang Binh, Viet Tri, Thanh Hoa, Haiphong bombed; airfields, including that of Hanoi, raided; and recently on May 2, 1967, many factories and residential quarters of Hanoi and on the outskirts of Hanoi were attacked by U.S. aircraft.

The American press rightly reported that Johnson said that the restrictions on the list of bombing targets. Escalation has now reached a particularly dangerous point, and threatens to bring about the "gravest consequences, for the responsibility rests solely with the American government."

At the time when weapons have become more and more intransigent, conventional, nuclear, biological, chemical, and other weapons are used in order to kill and maim millions of people in urban centres. C.B.U.s are used in combination with explosive bombs and other weapons in order to kill and maim millions of people in urban centres. C.B.U.s are used in combination with explosive bombs and other weapons in order to kill and maim millions of people in urban centres.

As always, the intensification of the war has been flavoured, American style, with "peace" proposals. So far nothing sensational has been put forth by the State Department, but this does not mean that Washington officials, with L.B.J. in the lead, have ranted of the their "good will". On the contrary, they have carried out a series of operations aimed at their "28 peace moves".

They are pretending to be ready to enter into talks with the other party. When U Thant put forward his proposal for a truce with maintenance of the status quo and peaceful elections have been held, the opportunity to voice a positive response. But when U Thant suggested that it should make the first step by putting an unconditional end to the bombing of North Vietnam, it said NO in more than one hurry.

When the Caucusus president, the Paul Martin proposals, the Johnson administration has perceived the best means of concerning the widening of the demilitarized zone and the cessation of all military activities there.

In the eyes of honest people, it is clear that the U.S. government is not prepared in order to cover up its war plans. It wants neither peace nor negotiations. It believes it could get out of the Vietnam hornets' nest through military solution, by means of its military strength. Let it beware: the Vietnamese people have won victory after victory. They will inevitably defeat American aggression.

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While the peoples of the world are boiling with indignation, some international organizations, like the International Red Cross, or religious authorities, which claim to be zealous defenders of the human person, have not dared to speak of these crimes, much less to condemn the criminals.

Such a barbaric act of war can further be illustrated by the bombing of Hanoi. As we have reported, on April 25 a explosive bombs were dropped on the city. Beyond the Hanoi periphery together with 12 C.B.U.s projecting a 680 m. range, all over the city, i.e., more than one of these for each of the 12 C.B.U.s, one among the most typical raids against the D.R.V. capital on April 25, 26, 28, and 29.

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PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S MESSAGES

TO LORD BERTRAND RUSSELL
LONDON

I am very glad to see the International War Crimes Tribunal open its first formal session. The lofty work sponsored by you has now begun to materialize. This is a very important international event, especially at a time when the United States is frenziedly escalating the war, striking at Haiphong port and Hanoi capital city. The Vietnamese people and the peace- and justice-loving people of the world are looking forward to the success of the International Tribunal.

Wishing you good health.

HO CHI MINH

TO Mr. JEAN PAUL SARTRE
President of the International Tribunal on War Crimes in Vietnam

ON the occasion of the opening of the first formal session of the International Tribunal on War Crimes in Vietnam, I wish to convey to you as well as to all the members of the Tribunal my warmest congratulations.

HO CHI MINH

tulations and sincere wishes for good success

The opening of the first session of the International Tribunal bears a profound significance, especially at a time when the American imperialists are intensifying to the utmost their war escalation, striking at Haiphong port and Hanoi, our capital. It is a powerful encouragement not only for us, Vietnamese people, but also for all the people fighting for national independence, freedom and peace.

The noble work of the International Tribunal, warmly approved and supported by the progressive mankind, however, has met and will still meet with numerous difficulties and obstacles created by the American imperialists and the reactionary forces. But I am convinced that its animators would persevere like in the past and take appropriate measures to carry through its work. It is certain that all the peace- and justice-loving people and persons in the world will be on their side and will support them wholeheartedly.

We convey our sincere thanks to all the members of the International Tribunal on War Crimes in Vietnam for their warm support of the just war of resistance of our people.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my very high consideration.

HO CHI MINH

MESSAGE OF Mr. NGUYEN HUU THO PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH VIETNAM N.F.L. TO B. RUSSELL INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL

ON the occasion of the session in Sweden of the International Tribunal on War Crimes, the U.S. imperialists' war crimes in Vietnam on behalf of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation, I convey to you my warmest wishes.

Like all the other peace- and justice-loving people, the South Vietnamese people greatly rejoice at this event of historic significance and regard it as an active contribution to the cause of our patriotic resistance against American imperialism and an important contribution to the common struggle of the progressive mankind for peace, national independence and justice the world over.

We once again sincerely thank Lord Bertrand Russell, initiator, as well as the prominent personalities members of the Tribunal and all our valiant friends who, in spite of all the obstacles put by American imperialism, are unflinchingly working for the noble cause of our country. We also avail ourselves of this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to our Swedish friends who have actively contributed to this undertaking of particular significance.

Please accept my best wishes for brilliant success.

NGUYEN HUU THO

(retranslated from the French)

REMEMBER FOR VIETNAM

crimes committed by the American imperialists in Vietnam must be defined before world opinion and condemned in the name of legal and moral principles recognized by civilized mankind; the criminals must be pilloried, and the peoples' conscience be moved into action, particularly that of the American people.

A noble-hearted man, a scientist and philosopher of world repute, Lord Bertrand Russell, launched a moving appeal for the setting up of an International Tribunal to try the war crimes perpetrated by the American imperialists in Vietnam. This appeal was heard in all countries, in all continents: eminent statesmen, scientists, university professors, journalists, from France, Italy, Japan, India, Latin America, Yugoslavia, etc., and also citizens of the United States, have joined with Lord Bertrand Russell in setting up an international tribunal, which expresses the conscience of a great part of humanity.

On May 2, 1967, this Tribunal has been instituted in Stockholm under the presidency of the well-known French philosopher and jurist, Jean P. Sartre.

For months, the Tribunal has been sending to Vietnam numerous investigation commissions, which have witnessed the spot the damage caused by American bombings, and seen the victims. Reports presented by those commissions have supplied irrefutable proofs of American crimes.

Dossiers have been prepared

on the following five main points:

1. Crime of aggression, with violation of "international agreements";
2. Use of experimental weapons, gas, toxic chemicals;
3. Bombings of hospitals, schools, dykes and others civilian objectives;
4. Torture and mutilation of prisoners;
5. Policy of genocide, taking in South Vietnam the form of concentration camps, mass internments, and other extermination techniques.

The Tribunal is not a State; it has no material power to support it. Its authority comes from the personality of its members, from their conscience and science, who passionately love justice and are not to judge on proved facts, set up scientific fields, have their judgments on no dogmas or personal passions, but on common logic and indubitable evidence. The variety of opinion within the Tribunal is also a guarantee of its objectivity.

Says Lord Bertrand Russell: "I don't claim that the people invited to sit on the tribunal have no opinion about the war. On the contrary, it is precisely because they are fully convinced that atrocious crimes have been committed that they have left themselves morally bound to set up a tribunal of conscience, so as to establish in a complete and definitive way the moral and legal responsibility of the United States in

South Vietnam. We must not confuse open mind with empty mind. We have not imagined that in order to be just, one must have no conviction. The authority of the Tribunal and its reputation of impartiality originate from the character of its members and the correctness of its method." (French paper *Le Monde*).

The Tribunal's authority lies also and mostly in the fact that it has taken a just position. It considers not a separate manifestation, but one of the multiple aspects of the powerful struggle against U.S. imperialism and its barbarous aggression in Vietnam. It is because it is part and parcel of this vast movement that its activities have aroused deep interest in the world. It is because its promoter, Lord Bertrand Russell, has taken a just position right from the beginning that he has rallied world opinion. Says he:

"It is an imperialism of prey that we are dealing with. Nowhere has it shown more cruelty and less mercy than in Vietnam. Chemical arms, gas, phosphorus and napalm bombs, 'razor bombs', dismemberment, mutilations, forced labour, concentration camps, barbaric re-education, torture, every cruel means has been employed by U.S. imperialism in Vietnam. Chemical arsenals, hospitals, schools, and villages are being razed to the ground, saturated with incendiary bombs." (retranslated from the French).

The Vietnamese people warmly hail the convening of the Tribunal and see there an important contribution to their own cause and to the cause of human progress. They pay tribute to the members of the Tribunal. For their part, they are more than ever resolved to fight American aggression until final victory.

A SYMPHONY PERFORMED BY PROFESSIONAL SWINDLERS

CONDEMNED by the International Tribunal for the use of anti-personnel weapons, the Johnson Administration is trying to cover up its deliberate crimes in Vietnam. On May 6, the Defence Department admitted that U.S. planes had utilized C.B.U.s (cluster bomb units) in North Vietnam, adding, however, that these were directed against "implements" and "not human beings". Developing L.B. Johnson's swindle to the effect that the U.S. Air Force only hits "steel and concrete" and "not human life", the Pentagon alleges that American planes do their best not to hurt innocent civilians among the population, and that if they want to harm them they can use more effective weapons.

While world opinion goes on sternly condemning the U.S. Air Force striking at residential and commercial quarters inside Hanoi on May 5, 1967 after bombing and striking the outskirts of the city, the U.S. military spokesman in Saigon stated that

American planes only bombed barracks buildings, just miles to the southwest of Hanoi (Reuter, May 6).

The utilization of C.B.U.s against civilian objectives, especially against the population which has become cruelly concentrated in the U.S. war escalation in North Vietnam, constitutes an undeniable fact. Very noteworthy in the recent raids against Haiphong and Hanoi, beside explosive bombs, including those of 300 lbs U.S. planes dropped C.B.U.s with a particularly high intensity on populated areas and factories most of which turn out consumer goods. The raid on April 20, 1967, has been acknowledged by a number of foreign correspondents at the bombing. Replying to the *Voice of Vietnam* radio correspondent, the U.S. defence Marceline Lorian said, not only did the American imperialists bomb cities in barbarous manner, they dropped a large number of C.B.U.s, a kind of weapon used exclusively to provoke human casualties by piercing through human habitation. I've seen a woman at a hospital, whose leg has been paralysed by a C.B.U. hit. Other people have been killed by the bombs. I've picked up 20 of these small bombs dropped by C.B.U.s in Haiphong."

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While the peoples of the world are boiling with indignation, some international organizations, like the International Red Cross, or religious authorities, which claim to be zealous defenders of the human person, have not dared to speak of these crimes, much less to condemn the criminals.

Such a barbaric act of war can further be illustrated by the bombing of Hanoi. As we have reported, on April 25 a explosive bombs were dropped on the city. Beyond the Hanoi periphery together with 12 C.B.U.s projecting a 680 m. range, all over the city, i.e., more than one of these for each of the 12 C.B.U.s, one among the most typical raids against the D.R.V. capital on April 25, 26, 28, and 29.

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Very clearly, when the aggressors attack economic installations, and densely populated quarters in urban centres, C.B.U.s are used in combination with explosive bombs and other weapons in order to kill and maim millions of people in urban centres. C.B.U.s are used in combination with explosive bombs and other weapons in order to kill and maim millions of people in urban centres.

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DURING the last two years, 1965-1966, in spite of the furious aerial war of destruction by the U.S. aggressors, the people and armed forces of North Vietnam scored great successes in combat and production. With the fulfillment of the 1965 State plan and the first five-year plan (1961-1965) was brought to a successful end. In the extremely difficult conditions of a country at war, the 1966 State plan was successfully completed, opening up promising prospects for the realization of the 1966-1967 two-year plan.

Agriculture met with numerous difficulties due to bad weather and enemy raids. A large number of peasant youth who make up the major part of agricultural labour force, joined the army or served in other defence or economic branches. Those who remained in the rear had to engage in production work and at the same time help the armed forces in combat, even directly participate in the defence of bombed roads, etc. Yet, in spite of apparently insurmountable obstacles, agricultural production greatly developed and agricultural co-operatives were strengthened in all aspects. Most were raised to the higher level type and enlarged; by the end of 1966, in the whole country, 85% of peasant households had joined co-operatives, 32% of co-operatives possessed more than 37 hectares of cultivated land, and 52.6% included more than 100 households (41.2% only in 1965). In 1966, each co-operative, on an average, comprised 108 households with 62 hectares of land as against 85 households and 49 hectares in 1965. Campaigns for improved management and technique contributed to raising the co-op members' consciousness of being masters of the land, stimulating them to produce ever more, and participate ever more actively in the fight against the U.S. aggressors. Hydraulic work continued to develop on a more rational basis, combined with the re-arrangement of the fields, and made it possible to increase the irrigated areas as well as

TWO YEARS OF VICTORIOUS STRUGGLE ON THE PRODUCTION FRONT

avoid water-logging. Small-scale mechanisation made up for the shortage of manpower and raised work productivity; by the end of 1966, 3,800 co-ops had been equipped with small mechanical stations, an important step in agricultural mechanisation. Each co-op possessed drying-ryas, paddy stores, facilities for preparing fertilizers, selecting and multiplying seeds. Widespread use of green compost, azolla pinnata in particular, as well as the increase in the number of pigs, which give manure, settled the fertilizer problem. State Trade services supplied to the peasants hundreds of thousands of tons of chemical fertilizers, insecticides, lime for soil improvement, and improved agricultural implements and transport means. All this created favourable conditions for intensive cultivation and the struggle against natural calamities (drought, epidemics, etc.), with encouraging results. In 1965, about 700 co-ops and 7 districts obtained 5 tons of paddy per hectare (for the whole year) — in 1966 the total increased to over 1,000 co-ops, 16 districts and a whole province (Thai Binh). It should be stressed that this record yield — 5 tons of paddy per hectare — is now a reality for North Vietnam agriculture: whole districts, like Dun, Phuong (Ha Tay

province) and Thanh Tri (in the suburbs of Hanoi), have obtained it for three consecutive years. In some regions, output has been rising with every passing year; for instance, in Giao-Thuy district (Nam Ha province) the increase in 1966 was 11% compared with 1965; in Hai Ha district (also in Nam Ha) it was 18.3%. Another feature is worth mentioning: Traditional monocultivation of rice has been progressively done away with. In 1966, dry crops accounted for 21% of the area and 25% of the production (in terms of paddy) — 10% for cotton, 5% and 14.1% in 1965, thus remedying the shortage of food for men and animals. Due to the extension of dry crops, animal husbandry especially the pig rearing has experienced great development, thus improving the supplies of the people in meat and giving dung for manuring.

The successes obtained by agriculture during the last two years prove that under all circumstances the D.R.V. cannot only maintain her agricultural production at the best years level, but also break it up to meet the growing needs of the country.

The enemy has launched furious attacks on our economic undertakings and industrial centres. Let's note first that most of our industrial enterprises have been divided into many parts and moved to various localities

Spraying of insecticides on ricefield



IN NORTH VIETNAM Elections to People's Councils At District and Village Levels Crowned With Success:

- In Many Localities from 99 to 100 per cent of the Electors Go to the Polls.
- At Village Level, Women Make Up Over 50 per cent of the Elected, and the Youth 40 per cent.

ALTHOUGH the whole country is at war, last April, elections to people's councils were held and successfully completed in all districts, provincial capitals and cities, city wards, villages and district towns according to plan and schedule.

In defiance of difficulties created by the U.S. aggressors, from the Delta to the highlands, from the islands to areas close to the demarcation line, our people, with calm and initiative, carried out the elections with the bearing of the victors, showing great

bravery and their grim determination to defend the democratic regime. Over 10,700,000 electors (as against 9,885,563 in 1965), conscious of being masters of their own destiny, went to the polls. In many localities, they went to 100% of the electors cast their votes.

In Hanoi capital, many polling booths completed their job before 9 a.m. with 100% of the electors casting their ballots. In Hai Phong city, elections were held only 2 days after savage U.S. bombing raids on residential quarters. Yet its citizens

were resolved to exercise their right to vote: 97.5% of the electors went. Over 10,700,000 electors (as against 9,885,563 in 1965), conscious of being masters of their own destiny, went to the polls. In many localities, they went to 100% of the electors cast their votes.

The elections were a great success not only in the political but also in the organizational field. 5,599 village and township 259 district, 4 provincial city, 30 provincial capital and 7 city ward elec-

tor's councils have been elected.

In these elections, the North-Vietnamese people have elected over 160,000 outstanding representatives, typical of the first-rank forces now active on all fronts of production, fighting and new-life building and reflecting the national unity.

The composition of newly elected people's councils shows a marked progress in the exercise of democracy, the increase of the young forces and the realisation of equality between men and women in the North.

At district level, women made up at least 40% of the elected persons in the delta and 30% in the highlands while the youth made up 30%. At village level, women made up at least 50% in the delta and 40% for the youth.

With such a composition, the newly elected people's councils are really bodies on which are focusing the strong will and intelligence of the people, capable of discussing and deciding on problems relating to production, to the U.S. fight for national salvation and to the building of a new life in their respective localities.

where measures have been taken to protect machines and workers and keep production going on. But almost all bombed factories have been quickly put back into operation. Among the expanding industrial branches, mechanical engineering and metallurgical products have recorded great progress, meeting the needs of production and combat; the value of annual production increased by 16% in 1965 compared with 1964 and by 20.2% in 1966 compared with 1965. A large quantity of machinery and equipment has been supplied to industrial undertakings, making it possible for them to raise their production capacities: machine tools, electric motors, internal combustion engines, lathes, barges, tug-boats, etc.. Secondly on account of the new economic orientation, great attention has been paid to the building of regional industries in particular. The value of manufactured products supplied to agriculture has improved agricultural implements, small electric machinery, increased by 39.2% in 1965 compared with 1964 and 44.2% in 1966 compared with 1965; the value of goods supplied to transport and communication services increased by 40% and 72.3% respectively. Some regions have been able to manufacture 63-ton presses, 150-kilogram forge hammers, 4.5-hp electric motors, 150 h.p. motor launches, etc.. This sector accounts for from 47 to 49% of the value of the country's total industrial and handicraft production. Investments increased 2.2 times in 1965 compared with 1964 and 1.9 times compared with 1966; they were mainly reserved for mechanical construction, building materials and the processing of food-stuffs etc.. Many small-size industrial installations have been built, including nearly 300 put into operation in 1966.

Transport and communications are the worst hit by enemy raids. But in spite of intensive bombings, traffic has been continuously kept going. Any damaged stretches of road or bridges are quickly repaired with the help of the people.

The supply to the people of daily necessities — rice, fabrics, sugar, salt, kerosene etc. — is always ensured. The prices of vital products (foodstuffs, textiles and school requisites) have remained unchanged in the main and the market has known no disturbances. The health network covers all the country's villages and hamlets: each village has its own infirmary and each district its hospital. Education is in full development. In spite of the bombing of educational establishments and the dispersal of schools, the year 1966-1967 has proved the best so far: the number of students enrolled in general, professional and higher education establishments has reached record figures.

In the two years 1965 and 1966, the struggle of the Vietnamese people on the front of production achieved great successes. This proves that North Vietnam is more than ever consolidated. In spite of U.S. escalation and natural calamities, we shall continue to build socialism and concurrently carry on the struggle against the U.S. air war of destruction.

OVER HANOI

THAT day of May 5, 1967 Hanoi sky was covered with thick clouds. At 4:25 p.m., the alarm sounded everywhere throughout the city. All of a sudden artillery salvos were heard, and the applause here and there. "Set aside!", "U.S. plane set aside!" A Thunderchief, out of a mass of clouds, dashed to the ground. A few minutes later, new A.A. rounds shook the air: another Thunderchief turned up from the clouds to bump into a ground-to-air missile. A terrible explosion tore the plane into pieces which fell down inside the town.

Sneaking raids having failed, the U.S. Air Force resumed its old tactics of striking from varied altitudes and several directions at a time, which did not prevent the Vietnamese anti-air defence units to down one attacking jet after another. Only when their seventh plane was brought down did the air pirates withdraw, and at 4:34

p.m. none of them remained over Hanoi. For so short a fight — just 9 minutes — the U.S. Command had to pay a

SEVEN U.S. PLANES SHOT DOWN IN NINE MINUTES

pretty high price: 7 planes lost in 9 minutes was decidedly a bitter blow. A more bitter blow, however, lies in that the hope placed by the Pentagon in the raid concerned, was smashed to smithereens by the armed forces and people of Hanoi.

American bombs, rockets and C.B.U.'s did not make a fighter on his gun emplacement waver even for a single minute. Typical of all Hanoi air-defence fighters was platoon commander Nghia. Bombs exploded nearby. He stood upright, holding aloft the commanding flag. C.B.U.'s raged around, along the paths linking various A.A. batteries, one of them no farther than 40 cm from him. Hit in his face which was covered with blood, Nghia kept standing to watch the enemy planes, always with the flag in his hand. Suddenly he lowered the flag and shouted at the top of his voice: "Fire!". The platoon's batteries roared afresh.

Side by side with anti-aircraft gunners were factory self-defence unit members. Apart from a few who had to

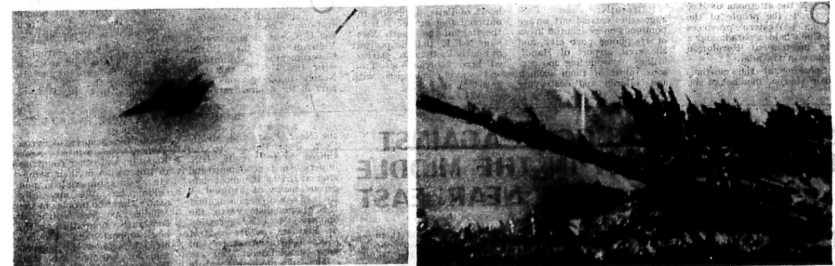
remain at their posts, all workers — in squads and groups — participated in the struggle with arms in hand. So did the four-man group under Vinh, a mechanic. Two bombs exploded in the vicinity, wrapping them in a thick cloud of dust and sand. Vinh called his fellow-fighters to inquire whether any among them was hurt: all the three replied immediately. And when he heard: "No one" from a young girl, Thu, an elite worker famous for her high productivity record, Vinh ordered, "Fight on!"

One of the lads who took part in the May 5 struggle was Nguyen Van Hoa, 13 years old. No sooner had he seen an American plane in flames and a pilot bailing out in a red parachute than he dashed in the direction of the air raider who was supposed to descend. The latter alighted on a paddy field and, as it appeared, tried to hide himself under the green carpet of riceplants. Hoa pursued him as quickly as he could, and when he rushed on him

Unquestionably, the farther the Americans "escalate" into Hanoi's air space, the sterner the punishment meted out by its armed forces and people to the U.S. Air Force bandits. This iron will was expressed by Phien on behalf of the *Hang Dong* factory workers after the fight of May 5: "Let them bomb and strafe. Our compatriots at Vinh, Hai Phong and all over our country are producing and fighting. Better than anyone else, we workers of the capital should do so."

A thought born of the same event has become a slogan among the defenders of Hanoi: Find out the best device to bring down U.S. planes on the spot. And soon the slogan has turned into a widespread emulation movement.

* The factory turned out electric bulbs and fuses and was hit by American bombs on May 5



American airmen captured:

- UP: Lt. James Richard Shively
- DOWN: right: Lt. Col. James Lindberg Hughes
- left: Lt. Col. Gordon Albert Larson



HANOI ON THE LIST OF HONOURS

- UP: left — American plane crashes in flames
- right — One of the A.A. batteries which downed 7 U.S. planes over Hanoi on May 5

DOWN: A missile unit which has shot down many American planes.

RESOUNDING VICTORIES OF THE L.A.F. IN QUANG TRI

- G.I.s and Puppet Troops Heavy Defeats in Quang Tri. At Khe Sanh the L.A.F. Wiped Out 1,800 Enemies (Including 1,500 G.I.s) Between April 24 and May 5.
- At Con Tien, Doc Mieu, Dong Ha and on Hill 241 1,000 Enemy Soldiers were Put Out of Action (Including 600 G.I.s) on May 7.

AFTER the resounding victorious attacks by the L.A.F. on various positions and towns in Quang Tri and Thua Thien (April 5 and 6, 1967) the Americans hurriedly dispatched the 24th Light Infantry Brigade, a brigade of the First Armored Cavalry division and a brigade of the 25th Infantry Division, to rescue the two marine divisions in dire straits in this theatre of operations.

In spite of this reinforcement Lt. Gen. L. Walt kept on asking for one more division because only 14,000 out of his 75,000 marines could be fielded (Reuter, May 7). He was right on this score.

Khe Sanh, a bomb-shaped area with Hills 881, 860 and many other hills on Highway 9 defended by one U.S. marine company supported by puppet ranger companies

was encircled by local guerrillas since mid-April.

On the evening of April 24, a ranger unit on patrol duty was intercepted. A marine detachment sent to its rescue lost nearly 40 men.

The next day, 72 others were killed and wounded when operating north-west of Khe Sanh.

On April 26, the Americans had to bring in a force from Dong Ha, Tan Lam and Con together with 3 U.S. marine companies (freshly coming from Okinawa after being strengthened in Japan following a sound beating in South Vietnam) to reinforce the Khe Sanh garrison. 154 more Americans were wiped out including a colonel.

On April 27, an enemy company venturing near Hill 881 lost 100 men. The Americans had to call off all

operations and ask for air and artillery support (April 27 and 28).

Then on April 30, 2 battalions of the 3rd Marine Regiment began attacking Hill 881. Though meeting a weak resistance as AF said on May 5, it was not until 2:35 p.m. that one battalion could reach the hilltop just to receive a deluge of fire from the A.F.

The ill-fated unit had to withdraw with 200 casualties.

The second battalion on another hill to the north also suffered heavy losses and fell back.

According to UPI (May 7) the marines on Hill 881 could do anything this evening but curse and die, as was the case of any ambushed unit.

On May 1, in the flurry of their successes, the L.A.F. stormed Khe Sanh, killed

over 200 Americans and wounded many others.

As the G.I.s were in the defensive at Khe Sanh, on May 4 the L.A.F. attacked Vay village 5 km to the west. After 30 minutes of fighting, all the three puppet commando companies led by 12 Americans were wiped out, the position was razed to the ground, and all the petrol and ammunition depots burnt to ashes.

In the meantime, the battle at Khe Sanh went on fiercely until May 5. According to preliminary reports, the L.A.F. wiped out 1,800 enemy soldiers (including 1,500 G.I.s) and killed 600 G.I.s and puppet troops, wounded and captured many others; they destroyed all underground trenches and stores. An enemy company freshly landing in a locality 24 km north-west of Con Tien was routed by the guerrillas; 40 soldiers were killed.

In co-ordination with the Con Tien battle, on the night of May 7, the L.A.F. hammered at enemy posts in Doc Mieu and Dong Ha, and the artillery emplacement on Hill 241. Nearly 300 G.I.s were put out of action at Dong Ha and on Hill 241.

According to initial reports, nearly 1,000 enemies including 600 G.I.s were wiped out in these battles. If the Khe Sanh battle is included, 2,300 enemies (including 2,100 G.I.s) were put out of action in all.

SOUTH VIETNAM N. F. L. Activities

MAY 2, the Commission for External Relations of the C.C. of the South Vietnam N.F.L. issued a statement protesting against the Indonesian authorities for having sent troops, police and hooligans to encircle the Chinese Embassy, and arrest and unjustifiably expel the Chinese chargé d'affaires and the Chinese consul-general in Djakarta, and regarding this as a violation of the principles governing international relations, and a sabotage of the friendship between the peoples of China and Indonesia.

RECENTLY, the General Association of Cambodian students sent a letter to the South Vietnam Liberation Struggle Union condemning the crimes committed by Pak Jung Hi troops in Binh Son and Son Tinh districts (Quang Ngai) and expressing full support for the heroic struggle of the South Vietnamese people including students. On behalf of the South Vietnam student organisation, Tran Bau Kiem sent a letter of thanks in which he praised the firm will of the Cambodian people including students, to oppose imperialism and colonialism.

AT the "Congress of anti-U.S. Fighters" in South Vietnam, Tran Thi Hang called the attention of everybody. "Aged 23, this young woman with bobbed hair had a pretty face, a fair complexion, and a slender figure. The fresh bandage round her neck testified to her courage."

Hang lived in a sandy area at the sea-side. In vain had American and puppet troops come there for "sweeps" to check the guerrilla movement and the people's political struggle. They stopped at nothing to seek out local military and political organisations.

One day, thousands of U.S. "marines" supported by planes and armoured cars raided Hang's village. Guerrilla teams, among them Hang's 3-man group, laid mines and sniped at the enemy. Scores of G.I.s were killed or wounded.

On the small village tons of bombs and shells were dumped.

The fighting was particularly fierce on the flank defended by Hang's group. The enemy attacked it wave after wave.

Hang and her two comrades — two men — were ordered to withdraw and harass the Americans in the night. Hardly had the orders arrived when the enemy came and forced them to seek shelter.

The assailants found the entrance to the underground gallery and started digging.

Sand poured on the three guerrillas' hair. Some rays of sun dazzled them. The safety pins of their grenades off, they were ready for action.

YOUNG MILITIA WOMAN TRAN THI HANG

They clearly heard the deep voices of some G.I.s and a puppet troop.

Hardly had the cover of the underground had been left off that grenades were thrown up. Four Americans were killed on the spot and three others wounded.

A few minutes later, the G.I.s ripped up by pouring down grenades. Both militiamen were seriously wounded. Hang was also hit in her neck. She felt the only grenade left to her and thought of committing suicide. But she said to herself: "No suicide. This grenade is for the Yankees."

Some G.I.s crept forward. For security's sake, they hurried down some more grenades.

All of a sudden, shouts broke out from the bottom of the pit:

"Long live President Ho Chi Minh!"

"Long live the South Vietnam N.F.L.!"

A young woman, red with blood, jumped out. Her grenade exploded. Some more G.I.s were hit. Exhausted, Hang also collapsed on the ground.

A group of American soldiers swarmed round her. One of them dragged her along by her hair. The torture began. She uttered no word.

A G.I. put his dagger against her chest. She clenched her teeth, staring at him. He pressed on the weapon and drew it down to the belly. She remained silent. The mercenary suddenly gave way. He stood up, staggered and dropped his dagger. He took a gulp of whisky.

When Hang came to, she felt a violent pain in every part of her bandaged body, particularly in her belly. Her hair had been cut short. Every time when she breathed,

her neck ached and bled.

She knew why the enemy was tending her in this hospital: they hoped to get information from her.

She thought out a plan. Recovering slowly from her wounds, she shamed exhaustion. When left alone, she trained herself to walk...

One day as they thought she was still too weak to leave her sick bed, she escaped and returned to her fighting post.

THE South Vietnam Liberation Youth Federation has recently sent a message to the Netherlands General Youth Union, expressing thanks for the approval and support of Dutch youth for the heroic struggle of the South Vietnamese youth and others against U.S. aggression.

May Day demonstration in Saigon against the U.S. and its lackey
INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
JUN 14 1967